THE MAN WHO LAUGHS

Dirty Streets a Capital Joke With the Police Department.

ALL THAT IS NEEDED IS MONEY TO DUMP.

General William F. Smith, or "Baldy," as he is Sectionately called by his friends, being the Presiden of the Board of Police Commissioners, may fairly be considered the official mouthpiece of the body which is just now receiving the indignation and wrath of a dirf-ridden people. As the HERALD always likes to give both sides of every story, President Smith was ied upon yesterday for an explanation of the dire state of our streets.
"What do you think of the present outcry against

the Board for its negligence in not cleaning the

streets?" was the first question asked.
The answer to this was surprisingly frank and straightforward for a man supposed to be supremely responsible for the condition which he admits;—"I think the streets are excessively dirty," said he. "or at all events most of them are, and I have no fault to and with the people who complain about them-However, we complain just as much as most other people, and, taking all the circumstances into considration, I do not think any department-even a separate one created for the sole purpose of cleaning the streets-could do any more than we have done." "What, then, are the obstacles that prevent you from keeping the streets clean?"

A LONG LIST OF MISSPENT LABORS.

"The first obstacle is that we have not enough money and that a large part of our appropriation was spent in clearing away the snow and ice. That was done much against my will, as I believed the law did not sanction this diversion of our funds, but under a public pressure somewhat similar to that now being practised upon us. The fact that we could not draw more than e-twelfth of our appropriation in any one month prevented us at the same time from doing any more than we did. Another great difficulty is that we have no places where to remove the fith. We have tried all sorts o. things to obtain relief from the Legislature, but all to no purpose. We tried to nave a bill passed allowing us to ill up sunken lots; that was deleated. Another allowing us to contract for the removal of the stuff by certain parties for a number of years—you see it takes capital to undertake such an enterprise and people will not embark in it as long as they cannot have it for a certain number of yearswas also killed. Then we wanted to deposit it in Little Hell Gate below the high-water mark."

President Smith then went into an interesting history of this proposition, showed how it obtained the notion of General Newton and of "the very highest sanitary authority in New York, Professor Chandler,' but was finally defeated like all the others of their

PIGHTING FOR A NOBLE CAUSE. This was not all, however. General Smith's woes

were by no means as yet exhausted. "Now, we have some old scows," he continued, "that were built at a time when the Jersey Central took away about half the firt, but where can we go with them ? If we go to seaalthough none of them are really seaworthy-we are followed by Blunt even outside the jurisdiction of the United States. On Staten Island we have an injunction, on the Kings county shore we have to battle with the Shore Inspectors; here we have to fight the oystermen, there our men are arrested by the rural police. Why it's got to such a dangerous pass that we can't e say to the Legislature: - You have refused to supply us a place where we can deposit this fifth, and, no latter who removes it from the streets, the city must have a place to take it to: and we hold you greatly re sponsible for the present condition of affairs. member that we have 32,000,000 cubic feet of dirt to remove every year. Little Hell Gate would have taken this stuff for two years and that would have given us time to hit upon and perfect a plan of permanent re-

CREMATION PAVORABLY VIEWED.

"What do you think of remating the garbage?"

"I am in favor of this plan personally if it is within our economies; but if it should prove too expensive it might make them but int dear."

This saily of the philosophic President of the Police Board was greeted by the laughter of Commissioner Nichols, who was present during the interview. "It sosts us \$100,000 a year to take the dirt from the city, and if we can build and run furnaces more cheaply fam in favor of it. We are making some experiments in that direction aircady, and have two different sets of machinery before us. Our cinic engineer is to visit the neighborhood of Philadelphia in a day or two, where a limekinh has been specially recommended to us. This kind of limekinh would cost about \$2,000."

"How many furnaces would you erect, and at what places?"

places?"
"An, there's another difficulty again. We should have to acquire the title to the land on the piers, and you know that most of the piers are not suited for furnaces at the piers and close to the scows, so that the ashes could be readily transferred to them with-out any extra cost of cartage. At pier No. 17 East River we could probably erect a turnace, and, per-laps, also at the foot of Gausevoort street, on the North River."

North River."

How it is bone in Paris.

"In Paris the street dirt is sold by the municipality at a considerable price to contractors, who make a fortune by it. Why cannot the same thing be done

ortine bytt. Why cannot the same thing be done nere?"

"Ah, in Paris they only burn wood, and very little of that. They have not one-fourth the ashes there that we have in New York, and they are wood ashes in the bargain, which are considered good manure. Here we get about five per cent of garbage in our ashes, which makes them unavailable for manure."

"Why cannot the mixing be prevented here as well as in Paris—as long as we have the best police in the world?"

peral Smith, who views the whole puzzling questieneral Smith, who views the whole puzzling question evidently as a laughing philosopher, replied, with a smile:—"In Paris they hold the house responsible, and here only the person who mixes the garbage and sales, and if you arrest said person here for that offence the Ponce Justice snaps his lingers at the poteeman and discharges the prisoner." And to demonstrate the multitudinous obstructions of the law to the efficient cleaning of the streets General Smith said:—"I don't suppose we have ever dumped a scow load without violating some law or other."

General Smith's interlectuor looked at the champion violator of the law with admiration. Here was a man who could violate the law every time a scow load was dumped, and whose tace yet lost nothing of its womed roundness and jointy.

ndness and jointy.
"What do you think of the Mayor's letter to you?"

"I assume," Goneral Smith reputed highly and with-out any appearance of terror at Mayor Ely's missive, "that the Mayor was badgered and bothered to death to hang us to a lamppost and means to give us an op-portunity to show the public by our answer that we have done our duty."

"Do you think you can give a satisfactory answer?"

"Do you think you can give a satisfactory answer?"
The laughing philosopher of the Police Commission
smited as he replied, "I have no doubt that our
answer will be satisfactory to the Mayor, but whether
it will be satisfactory to the man who reast it, with
the dust in his eyes, at another question."
"The Mayor says that the fact that you succeed in
keeping Brondway and Fifth avenue clean is conclusive proof that you can keep the other streets clean,
inc. "

Here Commissioner Nichols spoke up:—"Yes, but we deened Broadway and Fifth avenue of snow and ice right of." gut on."
ould you not have cleaned all the other streets, "It would have taken \$1,000,000," General Smith

etter."
"How about dumping in the Sound?"
"Well, we have tree that, and we have a row with be Long Island authorities on one side and with the connecticut authorities on the other. The waters of he Sound as far as Laoyd's Neck are within the jurislication of one State or the other, and, besides, we are able to be taken up by the United States authorities."

"is it a creditable performance for the great city of New York to hunt for comping grounds ail along the Sound and create different nuisances in every place?" "I should say empirationally not," was General Smith's reply. "What can we do, however? We have fougus the oystermen, and they were right. People have a right to defend their hearths, and why not they their beds? (Here was a pun on oyster beds.) As far as the Legislature is concerned we have exhausted our efforts for reite." "Where do you intend to dump now?"

"Where do you intend to dump now?"
General Smith and Mr. Nichols looked somewhat
puzzled at each other, but the latter took up the query,
saying. "We'll try to go out to sea as well as we can
with these old scows of ours."
"Have you not money enough to clean the streets
thoroughly, provided you have places to take the
dirt to?"

priation this year that we had last, when the Jersey Central removed, free of cost, half the dirt of the west side. And here let me speak of another difficulty we have to consens while the repairing of pavements, when the stones are reast they put on from four "" six inches of sand, to be worked down the innerstace. By virtue of an ordinance of the Common Council they are allowed to keep this gind there ten days, by which time it is ground into the powder, carried by the breeze to the gatter and pavement and gets into people's eyer, when they get mad and write at once to the Harata, pitching into us! And it is just the same with the sand between the horse car tracks."

"Most people, including the Mayor and Comptroller, regard \$2,000 a day as entirely sufficient to clean the streets."

"Two thousand dollars may be a good deal of money, but it is not very much when you have to clean 275 miles of streets."

That was what might be popularly called a "clincher," and the writer evaporated forthwith.

TARDY EFFORTS AT REFORM.

TARDY EFFORTS AT REFORM.

The following resolutions were adopted by the Police Commissioners yesterday;—

Resolved, That the inspectors of street cleaning shall promalgate an order to all forement and gangmen to report on Saturday of each week the names of each and every employe serving under him who shall have proved to be inducted to register in the performance of his work, service or duty, or physically or otherwise incapable of performing full, efficient day work, or who shall do his work or perform his service in an improper manner. He shall also instruct inspectors of damps to inspector an arrival every cart delivering at his dumps and report immediately in writing to the inspector of street cleaning the number of any cart which shall contain less than a full load of material, and the name of the cart man thereof, to the each that inefficient and offending employes shall be immediately dismissed the ervice.

and offending employes shall be immediately dishlisted as ervice.

Resolved, That the foreman of wards shall require all persons engaged in collecting material after the sweepers to remove the whole of the material collected in hears in the streets, so that the location of the hears (or the removal) shall be left broom clean. Any employe who shall disregard this order will be subject to immediate dismissal.

Resolved, That the foremen, gangmen, cart drivers and street sweepers shall keep diligently to their work during working hours, and shall not enter any saloue, drinking place, eating house or other premises during work and business hours. The foremen and gangmen shall report in writing every disregard or violation of this order, under the penalty of immediate dismissal.

writing every disregard or violation of this order, under the ponalty of immediate dismissal.

WHERE WAS IT DUMPED?

The Street Cleaning Committee of the Police Board received a weekly statement from Captain Gunner, which showed that 14,286 loads of ashes and 20,606 loads of dirt were carted away last week. Commissioner Wheeler is engaged examining the list of employees for weeding purposes. Only able-bodied and efficient men will be retained.

INQUINION ALDERNEM.

The Aldermen yesterday passed a resolution directing the Police Commissioners to furnish to the Board a statement showing the following facts:—The name, occupation and compensation of every person employed or connected directly with the work of cloaning the streets from November 1, 1876, to April 1, 1877, a detailed statement of all expenses incurred in said work other than the amount paid for salary or wages; a statement of the receipts and expenses connected with the work of street cleaning during the same period.

HEAVY POST OFFICE FRAUD.

HOW EDWIN B. GURNEE RIFLED MAILED PACK-AGES OF VALUABLES-HIS CONFESSION OF THE MODUS OPERANDL

Yet another Post Office defaulter has fallen under the systematized tactics of Special Superintendent Sharrotts designed to exterminate all frauds and perpetrators of frauds on the institution whose reputation in that particular line has been intrusted to his vigilance. For some time past the purloining of valuables, made up in packages and intrusted for safe delivery to the Post Office authorities, has been carried on. As many of these packages reach the Post Office here from distant cities for transmission to distant places beyond the city detection of the culprits was somewhat more than ordinarily difficult. Mr. Sharretts' espionage, however, was rewarded in the detection of one of the employés in the newspaper and package distribution department of the Post Office in this city. The suspicion of the Superintendent had fallen upon a man named Edwin R. Guruce, twenty-eight years of are, who has served three years in that branch of the Post Office. A number of packages as decoys were put up, containing jewelry and valuables of different kinds, to tempt the suspected party, if he should, indeed, prove to be the guilty one. These packages were deposited on the table at which he worked, his hours being from twelve at night until eight in the morning. Argus eyes were on the packages and the movements of the supposed purioner throughout the night, and as the young man, Edward B. Guruce, was about leaving the building for hes home Snarretts laid his hands upon his shoulders and told him to tollow him. The sequel is seen told. In the Superintendent's room Guruce was searched and some of the marked valuables were found upon his person. Confession and repentance followed. Sharretts did not care for the repentance; it was a full and unconditional confession be demanded. Guruce made a clean breast of it. He confessed he had been at work purioning from packages he had handled for over a year. His custom was to carry off small packages to his home and then make a search of their contents; if valuable he would retain them, and afterward cautiously sell some and pawn others; the less valuable he would retain them, and afterward cautiously sell some and pawn others; the less valuable he would retain them, and afterward cautiously sell some and pawn others; the less valuable he would retain them, and afterward cautiously sell some and pawn others; the less valuable he would retain them, and afterward cautiously sell some and pawn others; the less valuable he would retain them had been at th here from distant cities for transmission to distant places beyond the city detection of the cui-

THE COACHING SEASON.

in the coaching world, but time has been taken by the forelock this year, and one coach is already on the road, while before the month has expired we shall probably see all the public coaches out that we are likely to have this season. Mr. Walter Shoolbred and Mr. Luxmore commenced running to Cobham on the 26th of last month, doing the whole journey to Guildford on the

commenced running to Cobham on the 26th of last month, doing the whole journey to Guidford on the 14th inst., while Captain Hargreaves will have the Portsmouth, Colonel Greenhui, Captain Spicer and Mr. Bailey the Windsor; Mr. Reed the Dorking and Mr. Parsons the St. Albans coaches on their respective roads to a fortnight or three weeks? time.

It is impossible to shut our eyes to the fact that there is not the zeal for "the road" there was two or three years ago, and such zeal as exists is not to be found among the promoters of what has been termed "the coaching revival." Nobie lorus and country gentlemen were then among our coach proprietors, but from various causes they have dropped away, and apparently "taken off their bars" for good. Death has deprived us of some. The names of Colonel Whithington, Mr. John Eden, Mr. George Meck, Mr. Henry Willis, Captain Rolls and Captain Byng must now be added to those of Mr. Chandos Pole and Mr. J. B. Angell, all coachinen and great supporters of the road. The accident that kept Mr. W. H. Cooper off the bench hast season will, we lear, provent him taking a very active part this year; but still we do not despair of seeing him at his favorite pastime before the summer is over. Lord Carington has long retired, and only gladdens our eyes at meets of Four in-final and C. G.; and the same may be said of Lord Macouff. Lord Bective we bear nothing of; Sir Henry de Bathe has a military command; Colonel Hathorn and Colonel Chaplin have become Benedicts (though matrimony is no bar to coaching, we hope); and Dr. Hurman, Captain Otway and Mr. Charles iloare make no sign. The stayers are Mr. Waiter Shoolbrea, Captain Hargreaves and a few others, and but for them "the road" would only exist in the pages of Apperley, Malet and Reynardson. Are gentlemen getting tired aiready of what somebody contemptiously called "our last now plaything?"

There will be a dinner at the Road Cluo on the 1st of May to celebrate the opening of the season, the Duke of Beauforts in the chair. The meets of the

TROTTING IN CALIFORNIA.

GREAT PERFORMANCE OF BARUS.

SAN FRANCISCO, April 9, 1877. TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD :-

Rarus trotted in 2:16 to-day, the fastest mile ever trotted to this State, over a rough track, with a strong trade wind blowing down the backstreton. Thirty-ave thousand dollars in gold was refused for him to-night, J. H. CONKLIN.

PEDESTRIAN CHALLENGE ACCEPTED. NEW YORK, April 16, 1877.

To THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD:—
In answer to Mr. Harding's challenge in the Herald a few days ago to waik a fifty-mile match against me, he allowing me a start of two miles, for \$250 a side, I no allowing me a start of two miles, for \$230 a stack, i accept, the match to take place within six weeks. I will meet Mr. Harding at the office of the Spirit of the Times to-day, 18th inst., at two o'clock P. M., to sign articles of agreement and put up a forfest of not less than \$150 a side in the keeping of the above paper, the Spirit of the Times also to be selected as the linal stakeholder. Yours respectfully,

Professor WILLIAM MILLER.

A THIEF'S AWKWARD JUMP.

Two sneak thieves yesterday afternoon entered George H. Warrenberg's contectionery store, No. 770 Third avenue, the first floor of which is used as a residence, and had appropriated property of the value of "Have you not money enough to clean the streets theroughly, provided you have places to take the dirt to?"

Nore money wanted and two "ifs."

Here followed a consultation between Messrs. Smith and Nichels with this result:—"If we had eight or ten good scows, and if we have good dumping places, then we could get along with \$50,000 or about one hundred and twenty-five thousand tollars per year more than we have now. We have the same appro-

AMUSEMENTS.

THE GRAND OPERA HOUSE. "Rose Michel" is being played in very creditable style by the Grand Opera House Company. The accnery, which was used at the Union Square, was presented at the Grand Opera House, so that in scenic effect nothing was lost by the change of location. In some respects the present performance is ahead of hat which drew so long at the Union Square. Mr. Boniface makes a capital De Vernay, and we consider that Mr. Seymour's Moulinest is better than Stuart Rob-son's. There is less buffoonery about it, and more nature and quiet delineation of the faithful servant, who is not necessarily a look. Bijou Heron played Louise with a strength and finish really wonderful. We cannot say much for De Bellevie or the Countes de Vernay, which were feebly handled by Mr. Peakes and Mrs. Wilkins. As to Stoddart, the original Pierre

Michel, he was as good as ever, and that is saying a

The Kellogg English Opera Company gave a per-ormance of Ambroise Thomas' opera "Mignon" last night at the above theatre. It is almost needless to say that Miss Kellogg played and sang the part of

MUSICAL NOTES. It is reported, on what seems to be thoroughly relile authority, that the matter of providing a permanent hall for Mr. Thomas and his orchestra has been taken in hand by Mr. William Vanderbilt, and that there is but little doubt of its being put through and that speedily.

REASONS AND NOT REASONS.

MISS ANNA E. DICKINSON ON HER RECENT

TROUBLES. AN OPEN LETTER TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:-

There is an ancient and admirable proverb relating to the propriety of washing soiled lines at home which I have no wish to contravene, I take for granted that the general public has no interest in my

personal troubles save as those may affect it.
What need, then, for me to say to it that my agent
was used by the management of the Eagle Theatre without compensation to do its work instead of mine throughout the fortnight previous to my engagement; that there was no stage manager or prompter in Mr Hart's company down to the 2d of April; that seven pieces of scenery necessary to the play for which he sponsible were not painted at noon of the Monday upon which I was to have first appeared; that the furniture had not been upholstered, the drapery had not been bought, the paraphernalia of "properties" with-out which the piece could not have been presented, out which the piece could not have been presented, and again for which he and not I was responsible, had not even been borrowed, much less bought, on that same day; that Mr. Waller, his stage manager, asserted in the nearing of the company that the piece could not be properly placed upon the stage within a week of the time he took command; that the advertising has been unterly insufficient; that the time honored or condemned, yet still universal, custom of complimentary tickets from the first night to the last has been ignored; that even newspaper men have been relused admission, with the milimation, as one of the editors of a leading city paper informs me, that the refusal was one for which I was responsible, in the face of the fact that, in common with all sensible "show people," I openly hold to this custom and courtesy, and the added fact that the only tickets that were sent to the New York press last Monday were those for which I had paid \$75 to the treasurer of the Eagle Theatre; that my agent has been grossly insulted and threatened with personal violence by Mr. Hart; that in violation of contract a notification to the company of the premature close of the season was posted; that threats were made for the manifest purpose of compelling me to assume the paculary responsibility of a venture that was a failure largely by reason of the theatre and the manager in which and with whom I was so unfortunate as to play; that Mr. Hart has stood in front of his theatre and resorted to the unique method of adding the success of his "star," and so of his own returns, by declaiming on her failures and shortcomings, and by insulting comments on the appearance of that portion of the public that came to the box office to purchase tickets—people who by reason of literary or social culture were this refined apprehension beings of an unknown specied that he has spoken of me in the hearing alike of friend, loo and the stranger within his gates in language that seems to be equally natural to the proverbial "angry fishwile," an and again for which he and not I was responsible, had interest to the public, so I will not amplify upon these points. That Mr. Hart's brother and treasurer twice broke the law after I quitted the theatre yesterday by an assault and battery upon my maid and the illegal imprisoning of the men sent for my wardrobe, part of which he forcibly detained; that, according to witnesses, Mr. Hart himself proposed to have me locked up in Ludlow street Jahl in language which might be of interest to the student of prolane history, but would probably be an outrage to the ears and sensibilities of any one else, are also items unnecessary to enumerate.

For none of these reasons did I fail to appear last evening, but because of repeated violations of his contract, which I will not put into print, since they are matters that must be settled in a court of law, to which tribunal they have been referred.

Good friends—I use the term advisedly, since in manifold ways I have through the last week been made to understand that the enormous majority of those who will read these or any words of mine are my cordial well wishers—good friends, I am sorry to be compelled to put so much disagreeable matter before you, and will heartily nope that when I again come lace to face with you next season at Mr. Daly's beautiful theatre you may find only that that pleases you and nothing that annoys.

ANNA E. DIUKINSON.

LITERATURE.

THE JERICHO ROAD: a story of Western life. "A certain man went down from Jeresalem to Jericho, and fell among thieves, which stripped him of his raiment, and wounded him and departed, leaving him half dead." Chicago: Jansen, McClurg & Co.

A good description of Western life is so rare in

novels that this story, so fresh, picturesque and true, deserves a welcome from the public. The design is admirable and the execution powerful. The tault of the story is its brevity, for there is enough material for a complete novel instead of a tale of 222 pages. The parable of the man who was plundered on the road to Jericho gives the keynote of the narrative. Lemuel Pankett, the hero, is a poor, wretched, almost half witted youth, who enters the story as a roustabout on a Mississippi steamboat, and thus begins his Jericho journey. He there meets his father, whom he does not know; another deck hand who is called the Parson "because he was the meanest man on the boat," A graphic description of an attempt to jump the falls during a freshet is introduced and the experiment results in the wreck of the steamboat and the death of old Pankett, who discloses his identity to his son. Poor Lem, after the igneral of his parent, reaches Mount Hope, a small town, which proves to be his Jericho. He is hired by one Squire Barkum, a hypocritical church member, a modern Pharisec, who nearly kills him with overwork and insufficient food. A capital scene is where Pankett becomes drunk and is made an example of at a temperance meeting. In his simple good nature he becomes the easy victim of designing rascals, and at one time is on the verge of being shot as a horse thief by a vigilance committee, the Regulators. Befound friends he then becomes the agent for passing counterfest money, is arrested and put in just. He esback for trial and acquitted after an exciting and dramatic scene in the court. But his vindication comes too late. Lem has been wounded unto death on the journey, and dies just as he finds his true friends, the good Samaritans, and thus passes in quiet from the stern Jericho of earth to the New Jerusalem above. This outline of the story will give the reader some

idea of the subject, but it must be read to appreciate its bold and natural pictures of scenery and manners. It is full of local coloring, and the effects are not exaggerated. Lem Pankett is a noble character, exhibiting moral strength surrounded by intellectual weakness. In this respect Lem resembles intellectual weakness. In this respect Lem resembles Smike in "Nicholas Nickieby." There is no imitation of Dickens. His whole life is a struggle for existence and a serifice for love. The death scene is extremely pathetic. Squire Barkum is drawn with great force, and another remarkable character is Bill Hixton, the horse thiel, to whom Lem has rendered great services, which he in the end returns. The mingling of humor with pathos throughout the book is one of its principal charms and only exceeded by its unusual indelity to the truth of Western 1110 OUR COMPLAINT BOOK.

BY ALL MEANS CREMATE THEM. To THE Editor of THE HERALD:

I would respectfully suggest to you, sir, that the Street Commissioners be cremated with the garbage forthwith.

J. W. H.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD:—

I beg to ask if conductor of car No. 20, Bleecker street line, cannot be made to speak without insulting his passengers? As there are many unemployed men who could, he might resign. JOHN Q. OSBORN, Grand View, N. Y. COLORED CALCIUM LIGHTS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD:-

Please allow me to make a suggestion in regard to calcium lights. Why do not parties using them put a violet or light-blue colored glass in front of the said lights? This has the most pleasing effect, and would not hurt man and beast half as much as to leave it white. Some other colors, also, produce a most pleasing effect.

A. C. HUBLER, Architect.

SLEEPING CAR BERTHS. TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD :-

Please cry down the system of having such small numbers over sleeping car berths. Once the beds made up and curtains over them it is impossible to tell where the berths are located. Why not have large numbers on the curtains? This would obviate all trouble and inconvenience, especially to ladies. TRAVELLER.

THE PARK TRANSFER ROADS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD :-I wish to warn your readers of the dangers they may Central Park, especially the Seventy-ninth street one. They are all infested with the worst specimens of tramps that the country can produce; but this one ap tramps that the country can produce; but this one appears to be the grand rendezvous. I had to pass through last Wednesday and saw over a score of dirty vagabonds, from the youth of seventeen or thereabouts to the grizzled rufflan of lerty or dity; they were lying around in all kinds of attitudes; some were playing cards, and one was performing his ablutions in a mud puddle by the side of the road (the only time I ever saw a tramp wash himself voluntarity). I told the aged policeman who keeps the gate on the Fifth avenue side, but he said he didn't see them, which was quite possible.

I hope you will insert this for the benefit of the public, as uptown residents tell me that cases of robbery are frequent. Yours truly,

D. F. M.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD:-Seeing you have opened a "Complaint Book" will you please allow me to say a few words in regard to the condition of the roads in this vicinity? We, the property owners, are assessed and taxed for improvements to Kingsbridge road, and there are about fif-teen men and wagons at work (doing nothing) on it every day. It is in a worse condition than any road on the island and not sale. For injuring norses and breaking vehicles it is the boss. What are we to do about it?

W. H.

A GOOD SUGGESTION.

TO THE POITOR OF THE HERALD:-In view of the fearful calamity which has just oc-curred at St. Louis I take the liberty of making the ollowing suggestions:-That if the fire department of every large city was furnished with a number of small cannon, similar in nature to those used by the United States Life Saving Corps on the coast, so mounted as to be elevated to throw a ball with a line stached on or over the roof of any burning building the weight of the ball would be sufficient to permit a gentle motion of the line so attached by the firemen below as to place it within the reach of any person standing at any window below the roof—the person in danger will then be able to had up a rope of sufficient strength to let him or herself down. This cannon, it furnished, could be mented under or in the box forming the driver's seat, on the tendors, with reel and small line with coppercased cartridges, and would not be very expensive. In addition I would suggest that each hook and ladder company carry a pole in sections, so as to be easily jointed, similar in nature to a fishing rod, which, when jointed together, shall reach a height of as least eighty feet, the top joint to be arranged at the top end to attach a rope and have two small sized wheels attached, so that when placed against the side of a house it will run up easy as each joint is connected until the necessary height is reached to convey the rope to the party in danger. States Life Saving Corps on the coast, so mounted a

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD:-It may interest you to learn that since my last re-port Allen and Cherry streets have been cleaned (?) and the cleanings piled up on either side of each street, where they have remained for a week drying out, pre-sumably with the expectation that the prevailing high winds may blow them away. In the meantime, with eyes, ears and mouths filled with the rotten powder, and noses saluted with stenches, compared with which the traditional seventy different smells of Cologne sink into utter insignificance, we wait and wonder what surprising feat the imbeciles at the head of the Street Cleaning Department will next attempt. The necessary traffic of the streets is fast spreading the fifth over its old bed, where it has calmly reposed for the ast five months, and the next rain will convert it into siush. It is said that the difficulty ues in the insuf-ficiency of dumping accommodations. That may be stush. It is said that the difficulty ies in the insufniciency of dunping accommodations. That may be
so; but what a commentary it is upon the wisdom and
lorenght of our rulers that said an excuse should be
urged or allowed when we reflect upon the fact that
London and Paris, with populations three times the
extent of ours, and not possessing a tithe of
our natural advantages, are not only kept well
cléaned, but actually derive a revenue from the cleaning; while we spend millions to do the work, and
then allow the filth to fester in the streets, while our
incapables are whining over the "want of dumping
grounds." Thousands of empty farm wagons may be
seen daily leaving the city by the various ferries, and
those wagons could just as well as not be made available for removing the rich deposits to localities fairly
groaning for the want of them. There need be no
difficulty with regard to clean ashes. The owners of
sunken lots (and there are many of them on this
island) would gladly allow them to be filled up free of
cost, provided the purity of the filling was guaranteed.
Of course the mixing of garbage with ashes must be
prombited. No sane person would deny the feasibility
of that provision. These are practical suggestions,
and it may be too much to expect that they will be
adopted. Until they are, I must consulted to sign
myself.

DISCIPLINE FOR FIREMEN. UNITED STATES NAVAL ACADEMY, }
ANNAPOLIS, April 12, 1877.

To THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD:—
In view of the late terrible fires and the consequent loss of life I think it not amiss to give publicity to the following ideas, some of which if tried may be the means of saving many lives and much property: The fire brigades should be at all times under the strictest military discipline. The men ought to be

strictest mintary discipline. The men ought to be taught to pay the greatest attention to orders from their superiors and to pay no attention to the suggestions of outsiders. This, of course, presupposes that the superiors are thoroughly up to their work.

A cordon of sentries, properly armed, should be thrown around the burning buildings, with orders to allow no one to pass but those properly accredited. In this way well meaning but over-officious persons, those strickens with panie, which too easily spreads, and not a few thieves would be kept out of the way. Every large hotel or tenement should be farnished with an electric five alarm, the key to which should be easy of access to the office clerk or watchman on duty, a gong bell being placed in each sleeping apartment. The top story should be provided with several rope ladders and ropes long enough to reach to the ground. There should be a liberal supply of fire extinguishers on each story. The employes should be drilled at fire quarters at least once a week. The hook and ladder trucks and each hose carriage should be supplied with rope ladder and ropes. A liberal allowance of light heaving lines would also be found of use. Rockets similar to those used in the coast life saving service would be of use in conveying light heaving lines over buildings or into windows, by which heavier ropes or ladders could be mailed up. It would be well to have a few single blocks so that wrips might be rove to lower women, children or invalue. The end of each rope or ladder should be provided with a large stout anchor flow to lasten inside the window sill or on the caves. Fire masks should be provided for a certain builmer of the men to enable them to go into the smoke. By this means many a serious conflagration might be nipped in the bod. We are about to carry on a series of experiments with the wickets, and with bows and arrows, for line carrying at this institution. taught to pay the greatest attention to orders from

Institution.

Heping that I have not encroached too much on your valuable space, I remain very respectfully yours, THEO. B. M. MASON.

Lieutenant United States Navy.

THE HERALD IN PHILADELPHIA. 1,131 GIRARD STREET, PHILADELPHIA, April 16, 1877.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD:

In yesterday's Herald I noticed the complaint of
Mr. Brophy in regard to the lateness of the hour at
which he receives his Herald. I do not know in what part of the city Mr. Brophy lives, and cannot therefore part of the city Mr. Brophy lives, and cannot therefore know what difficulties may be in the way of the early delivery of the MRIALD at his house; but this I do know, that it reaches my house at a sufficiently early hour for me to read all the news before an eight o'clock breakinst; and as the train arrives at seven (not six, as Mr. Brophy states), I see no cause for his complaint. I feel it my duty to make this statement in Justice to the gentlemen who have charge of the Philadelphia office, and from whose hands I have received every courtesy. Very respectfully, &c., Charles H. GIBSON.

FINANCIAL AND COMMERCIAL.

The Stock Market Dull and Irregular.

GOLD 107 5-8 A 106 7-8.

Government Bonds Lower and Railroads Irregular.

MONEY ON CALL BASY AT 3 A 2 PER CENT.

TUESDAY APRIL 17-6 P. M.

A variation of one per cent in the gold premium within the space of an hour is as rare an occurrence in these dull times as the finding of a black swan or a Stock Exchange "pigeon" with unplucked plumage. Nevertheless, such a fact turned up to-day, when the the precious metal tumbled from 107% to 06%. It turns out that the game of brag between Russia and Turkey is not finished yet and that the card of peace may be played after all. So, apparently, thinks the London market, which scores % per cent better price for consols, and so, in sympathy, thinks matter grew out of the report that the Suitan had cleaned out his Cabinet; whether by bowstring, Bosphorian sack or simple "walking ticket" the cable does not inform us. It is considered sufficient that a change has taken place, that warlike Pachas have been forced to retire with their three tails between their legs and that peace loving substitutes have taken their places. This is the theory based upon telegrams and acted upon as fact by the Gold Room. The report may be true or it may be not—the London Exchange says "yes" by a rise in consols; the Paris bourse says "no" through a further fail in rentes. A clear chance is offered to take your choice-money up. Meanwhile the Stock Exchange, with doors closed to outside influence, simmers. It is not inclined to boil over either way, short or long. There has been some good buying upon the part of some prominent speculators and equally as good selling, so between the two fluctuations have been unimportant and the aggregate of dealings moderate. At one time the coal stocks and Hannibal and St. Joseph shares betrayed considerable weakness, aithough there was some recovery at the close. As for the rest of the market it was left to the jackals of the board, who were content with scenting out such eighths and quarters as escaped the lions of speculation in last week's fray.

THE SALES TO-DAY.
The sales of active stocks to-day aggregated 185,600 shares, which were distributed as follows:-New York Central, 2,080; Erie, 100; Lake Shore, 14,025; Northwestern, 2,750; Northwestern preferred, 3,850; Rock Island, 22,000; Milwaukee and St. Paul, 200; Milwaukee and St. Paul preferred, 2,700; Pittsburg, 600; Delware, Lackawanna and Western, 32,100; New Jersey Central, 400: Delaware and Hudson Canal, 9.250; Morris and Essex, 755; Michigan Central, 8,400; Illinois Central, 1,650; Western Union Telegraph, 28,100; Atinutic and Pacific Telegraph, 350; Pacific Mail, 2,800; Quicksilver, 300; Hannibal and St. Joseph, 1,100; Hannibal and St. Joseph preferred, 1,400; Ohio and Mississippi, 250. ADVANCE AND DECLINE.

The following shows the advance and decline in the losing prices of the principal active stocks as compared with those of yesterday:-

pared with those of yesterday:—
ADVANCE.—Western Union Telegraph, %; Pacific Mail. %; New York Central, %; Frie, %; Lake Shore, %; Illinois Central, %; Northwestern, 1; Northwestern proferred, 2%; Rock Island, %, Milwaukee and St. Paul preferred, %; Ohio and Missiesappi, %; Michigan Central, %; Chicago, Burlington and Quircy, %.

DEGLINE.—Harlem, %; New Jersey Central, %; Milwaukee and St. Paul, %; Belaware, Lackawanna and Western, 1%; Morris and Essex, %; Hannibel and St. Joseph, 1; Hannibel and St. Joseph preferred, %; Delaware and Hudson Canal, 1.

CLOSING PRICES.—3 r.

CLOSING PRICES-3 P. M. The closing prices were:--

THE MONNY MARKET.

The money market was easy to-day, money leaning

UNITED STATES TREASURY.
The revenue receipts to-day were \$225,000; customs

railway shares were steady. The Bank of England gained £250,000 bullion on balance to day. Bar silver is quoted at 54 %d. per ounce. Elther the rumor about the Ministerial changes at Constantinople did not reach Paris, or it was not credited there, for rontes, instead of improving, showed a further decline and soid at 103f. 40c. From Amsterdam we have news of a heavy failure by a dealer in Russian securities, but the amount is not stated. It is evident that the rumor on which securities advanced at London was not confirmed by later intelligence, for consols, which act as a generally retiable barometer of the situation, fell back % a % at the close of business. The closing prices in ondon were:--Consols for money and account, 94% a 95; five-twenty bonds of 1865, old, 102% a 102%; fivetwenty bonds of 1867, 107% a 107%; ten-forty bonds,

1881, registered, ox interest, 110% a 110%; do., do., do., coupon, 111% a 112; do. 4%, 1891, registered, 108% a 108%.

State bonds at the board were dull and steady, with sales confined to North Carolina sixes, old, and Missouri

In New Orleans Louisiana consols sold for 74% a 75.

Railroad bonds continue irregular, but generally steady. The following were the changes in prices com-pared with last provious sales;—An advance of & in Milwaukee and St. Paul consolidated sinking funds and Chicago and Northwest consolidated gold sevens and % in New Jersey Central convertibles and New York Central sixes of 1883. There was a decline of % in Chicago and Northwest firsts and Central Pacific firsts (California and Oregon branch) and & in Union Pacific firsts and Louisville and Nashville consels of '98; otherwise there were no changes.

BANK BHARES.

The sales of city bank shares were Fourth National at 100, Central National at 100, Nassau at 95 and Importers and Traders' at 190.

The closing prices of Philadelphia stocks were:-

MINING SHARES.

The following were the opening quotations for mining stocks at San Francisco to-day:—Gould & Curry, 9; Savage, 3½; Chollar Potosi, 35; Ophir, 15; Hale & Norcross, 2½; Crown Point, 6; Yellow Jacket, 8; Belcher, 5; Imperial, 134; Virginia Consolidated, 34; California, 37; Overman, 21; Beat & Belcher, 20; Union Consolidated, 5; Alpha, 9; Meadow Valley, ½; Sierra Nevada, 4; Mexican, 9; Caledonia, 3; Silver Hill, 1%; Eureka Consolidated, 18; Justice, 9; Julia Consolidated, 1%. The closing prices in San Francisco

ere:-	
lipha 11 seleher 634 sest & Beleher 2034 kullion 735 obsolidated Virginia 344 shilornia 37 chollar 373 chollar 373 chollar 374	Justico
NEW YORK STOCK	EXCHANGE SALES

TUESDAY, April 17, 1877. 1800 Western Union. 10:15 AND 11:30 A.

\$50000 S Car C'a, n, n f, 200 sha Pro 20030 A.

The money market was easy to-day, money leaning early in the day at 3 per cent on call and closing at 2 per cent. The following were the rates of exchange on New York at the undermentioned cities to-day:— 600 New York at the undermentioned cities to-day:— 600 New York at the undermentioned cities to-day:— 600 New York, selling 4; Charleston, nothing doing; Cincinnati, steady and firm, buying par, selling 1-10; St. Louis, 1-10 premium; New Orloans, too unsettled to give quotation; Chicago, 75 premium.

Foreign exchange is unchanged, with actual business at 4.87 for bankers' 60 days' sterling and 4.88½ a 4.80 for demand.

THE GOLD MARKET.

In the gold room to-day there was increased excitement and activity consequent upon the London advices. At the opening sales were made at 107%, and shortly atterward the price alvanced to 107½; but at this point the news was received that European securities at London and improved on the rumor of a change in the Turkish Ministry, and this reversed the course of speculation, the price dropping to 107½ on a sharp pressure to sell. Subsequently gold recovered ½, but at this point the news was received that European securities at London tand improved on the rumor of a change in the Turkish Ministry, and this reversed the course of speculation, the price dropping to 107½ on a sharp pressure to sell. Subsequently gold recovered ½, but at this point the news was received that European securities at London tand improved on the rumor of a change of speculation, the price dropping to 107½ on a sharp pressure to sell. Subsequently gold recovered ½, but at this point the news was received the European securities at London tand improved on the rumor of a change of the day.

Currency exchanges. \$4,04,77,118 (100 do \$4,00 do \$6,00 do \$6

CINTRO STATES TREASURY.

The revenue receipts to-day were \$225,000; customs receipts, \$460,000; bank notes received for redemption, \$380,000.

The porrigh marker.

The London advices have a less warlike tone than the despatches we have been receiving for some weeks past. Consols and misscellaneous European securities have improved somewhat, on a rumor current at London that there were prospects of a change in the Turkish Ministry, which, of course, was regarded as an indication of a change in Turkish policy also. The advance in consols was 14 a 35 per cent. United States bonds were weaker, on the intelligence, doubtless, that gold had risen in the New York market. American railway shares were steady. The Bank of England gamed £250,000 builton on balance to day. Bar silver

2 P. M. 2 P. M. 10000 U S 5-20's, c, 95, 110 1000 U S 5-20's, c, 95, 110 10000 U S 5-20's, c, 95, be 110 10000 U S 5's, reg, '95, 110's 10000 U S 5's, reg, '91, 110's

95; five-twenty bonds of 1865, old, 102½ a 103½; five-twenty bonds of 1867, 107½ a 107½; ten-forty bonds, 107½ a 107½; new fives, 105½ a 105½; Erie common shares, 5½; Erie preferred shares, 16; New York Central, 87 a 875½; Himois Central, 47½. In Paris renies closed at 1031, 70c., and exchange on London was 251, 12c.

GOVERNMENT BONDS.

GOVERNMENT BONDS